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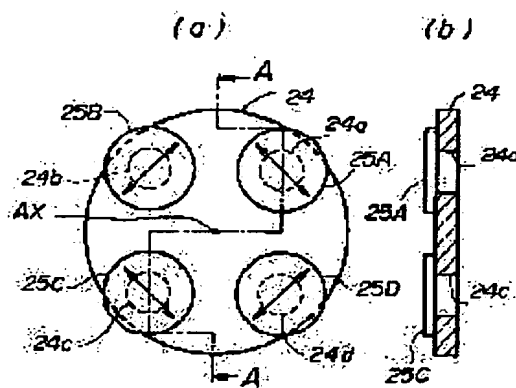
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(54) ILLUMINATING OPTIC DEVICE

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To improve image contrast for oblique illumination performed by a plurality of illuminating devices when a reticle pattern is a line-and-space pattern whose lengthwise direction is vertical to the incident plane of the illuminating light.

CONSTITUTION: Four apertures 24a-24d of a space filter as a secondary light source forming part are covered with a polarizing plates 24A-25D and the polarizing direction of the polarizing plates 25A-25D is set in the direction of the tangential line of a circumference whose axis is an optical axis AX.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] In the illumination-light study equipment which illuminates the predetermined field on a body to homogeneity by the illumination light from an illumination-light study system said illumination-light study system Illumination-light study equipment characterized by having a polarization means to form the illumination light which carries out the linearly polarized light in the dip light means forming which forms the dip light which illuminates said predetermined field from across, and the direction which intersected perpendicularly to the plane of incidence of said dip light which changes this dip light and carries out oblique illumination of said predetermined field.

[Claim 2] In the illumination-light study equipment which has the light source which supplies the illumination light, and the condensing optical system which illuminates the predetermined field on a body to homogeneity by this illumination light Arrange the dip light means forming which forms the secondary light source which carried out eccentricity to the optical axis of said condensing optical system by said illumination light, and illuminates said predetermined field from across between said light sources and said condensing optical system, and this dip light is changed. Illumination-light study equipment characterized by having arranged a polarization means to form the illumination light which carries out the linearly polarized light in the direction which intersected perpendicularly to the plane of incidence of the dip light which carries out oblique illumination of said predetermined field, between said dip light means forming and said condensing optical system.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Application] This invention is applied to the illumination system of the projection aligner used in case a semiconductor device or a liquid crystal display component is manufactured, and relates to suitable illumination-light study equipment.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] In case a semiconductor device or a liquid crystal display component is manufactured using a photolithography technique, the projection aligner which imprints a photo mask or the pattern of reticle (it is hereafter named "reticle" generically) on a sensitization substrate is used. In this projection aligner, to be able to burn a more detailed pattern with high resolution is demanded with high integration of a semiconductor device etc. The phase shift reticle method for using the cross protection of the light from the area pellucida from which the pattern space of reticle differs as an approach of realizing this is indicated by JP,62-50811,B. If this approach is applied to line - and - tooth-space image, the zero-order diffracted light will be lost fundamentally, and it becomes the image formation only by the primary [**] diffracted light, and line - more detailed than the case of the conventional reticle and - tooth-space image can be burned in high resolution also by the projection optical system of the same numerical aperture.

[0003] Moreover, as another approach for raising resolution more, an illumination-light study system is devised and the approach which is high resolution and can be burned with the comparatively deep depth of focus in a detailed pattern is proposed by these people (for example, collection of March, 1992 applied physics relation union lecture meeting drafts 30-a-NA -3, 4 reference). Below, the approach is explained per the approach with reference to "two or more oblique illumination method", a call, and drawing 8. First, drawing 8 (a) shows the equivalence light source sections 10, such as the secondary light source sections in the illumination-light study system which applied two or more oblique illumination method, and the four small light sources 11A-11D are arranged in accordance with the symmetrical shaft in this drawing 8 (a) about shaft x' which crosses at 45 degrees to the x axis and the y-axis which form a rectangular coordinate system, respectively and this shaft x', and the y-axis. In the case of line - and - tooth-space pattern with which the pattern of the reticle made applicable to an imprint has a long edge mainly parallel to a x axis, or a long edge parallel to the y-axis, the array of these small light sources 11A-11D is suitable.

[0004] Drawing 8 (b) shows the outline configuration of the projection aligner which makes the light source the equivalence light source section 10 of that drawing 8 (a), and is aslant irradiated by reticle 12 to an optical axis AX in this drawing 8 (b) through the condenser-lens system in which chief ray 15A of the illumination light from small light source 11A of the equivalence light source section 10 carried out the graphic display abbreviation. The equivalence light source sections 10 are pupil surface (incidence pupil surface) 10A of a projection optical system 13, and conjugation, and aperture-diaphragm 13a is prepared in this pupil surface. From the reticle 12, zero-order diffracted-light (this is also expressed with sign 15A) and primary diffracted-light 16A is mostly injected by the symmetry to an optical axis AX, and these zero-order diffracted-light 15A and primary diffracted-light 16A carry out incidence of the **** for a projection optical system 13 to the wafer 14 as a sensitization substrate by the almost same incident angle theta. In this case, in order that zero-order diffracted-light 15A and the primary diffracted light may receive optical-axis AX and may pass near the periphery of a pupil to the symmetry, the resolution to the performance limit of a projection optical system 13 is obtained.

[0005] Moreover, by the method in which the zero-order diffracted light carries out incidence at right angles to a wafer 14 like before, since the wave aberration of the zero-order diffracted light to the amount of

defocusing of a wafer 14 differs from the wave aberration of other diffracted lights greatly, the depth of focus is shallow. On the other hand, with the configuration of drawing 8 (b), in order that the zero-order diffracted light and the primary diffracted light may carry out incidence to a wafer 14 by the equal incident angle, the depth of focus on which a phase etc. spreads the wave aberration of the zero-order diffracted light in case a wafer 14 is before and behind the focal location of a projection optical system 13, and the primary diffracted light is deep.

[0006]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] It is effective if it is line [of the direction of a x axis, or y shaft orientations] -, and - tooth-space pattern 8 by the two or more oblique illumination method. As shown in drawing 9 , a long edge receives a x axis or the y-axis. On the other hand, in the case of line [of a 45-degree direction] -, and - tooth-space pattern 9 Supposing 10A is the pupil of a projection optical system, the diffracted light from small 2 [11B and 11D] of the four small light sources 11A-11D of drawing 8 (a) Only the zero-order diffracted lights 15B and 15D pass pupil 10A of a projection lens, and in order that the primary [**] diffracted lights 16B and 16D may not pass pupil 10A, they will not form a pattern on a wafer 14 and will only illuminate a wafer 14 uniformly. Consequently, the contrast of the pattern on a wafer 14 will fall.

[0007] Easy numerical calculation shows this. The strength of the primary [**] diffracted light to the strength of the zero-order diffracted light is set to a, and it is considered that each smallness light sources 11A-11D are the point light sources. At this time, line - long to y shaft orientations and image intensity-distribution [on the x axis in the case of - tooth-space pattern] I (x) are as follows as the sum of the image intensity distribution by each smallness light source.

[Equation 1]

$$I(x) = 4 \{ 1 + a^2 + 2a \cos[(4\pi/\lambda) (\sin\theta) x] \}$$

[0008] Here, the incident angle theta is an angle which the zero-order diffracted light or the primary [**] diffracted light makes with an optical axis AX, as shown in drawing 8 (b). On the other hand, when x' shafts are set as the axis of coordinates of the direction of 45 degree in the case of line - and - tooth-space pattern long in the direction which intersects a x axis or the y-axis at 45 degrees, intensity distribution I (x') are as follows.

[Equation 2]

$$I(x') = 2 \{ 1 + a^2 + 2a \cos [(4\pi/\lambda) (\sin\theta) x] \} + 2 \{ 1 + 4 \{ 1 + (a^2/2) + a \cos [(4\pi/\lambda) (\sin\theta) x] \} \}$$

[0009] (Several 1) It is as follows when it asks for the contrast Cx of each intensity distribution, and Cx' from reaching (several 2).

[Equation 3]

$$Cx = 2a/(1+a^2), Cx' = a/(1+a^2/2)$$

[0010] In this case, a degree type is materialized.

$Cx - Cx' = a / \{ (1+a^2) (1+a^2/2) \} > 0$, therefore a degree type are materialized.

[Equation 4] $Cx > Cx'$ [0011] Therefore, lowering of the contrast of a long pattern is shown in the direction which intersects a x axis at 45 degrees. For example, since a is set to $2/\pi$ in the strength of the primary [**] diffracted light when the width of face of a line and a tooth space is equal, it becomes like a degree type.

$Cx = 0.906, Cx' = 0.529$ [0012] In addition, although above-mentioned explanation explained the case of two or more oblique illumination method as an example, even when zona-orbicularis illumination etc. is used, for example, to improve the contrast of an image more is desired. In the illumination-light study equipment which illuminates reticle etc., using positively the illumination light toward which this invention inclined to the optical axis in view of this point When patterns, such as the reticle, are line - and - tooth-space patterns which make a longitudinal direction a direction vertical to the plane of incidence of the illumination light When patterns, such as the reticle, are projected by the projection optical system, it aims at enabling it to improve the contrast of the image with the device by the side of illumination-light study equipment.

[0013]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In the illumination-light study equipment to which the 1st illumination-light study equipment by this invention illuminates the predetermined field on a body (12) to homogeneity by the illumination light from an illumination-light study system as shown in drawing 3 The dip light means forming which forms the dip light (27B, 27C) in which the illumination-light study system illuminates the predetermined field from across (24), This dip light is changed and it has a polarization means (25B, 25C) to form the illumination light which carries out the linearly polarized light in the direction which intersected

perpendicularly to the plane of incidence of that dip light that carries out oblique illumination of that predetermined field.

[0014] Moreover, the 2nd illumination-light study equipment is set to the illumination-light study equipment which has the light source (20) which supplies the illumination light, and the condensing optical system (26) which illuminates the predetermined field on a body (12) to homogeneity by this illumination light, as shown in drawing 3. The dip light means forming (24) which forms the secondary light source which carried out eccentricity to the optical axis of the condensing optical system by the illumination light, and illuminates the predetermined field from across is arranged between the light source (20) and its condensing optical system (26). This dip light is changed and a polarization means (25B, 25C) to form the illumination light which carries out the linearly polarized light in the direction which intersected perpendicularly to the plane of incidence of the dip light which carries out oblique illumination of that predetermined field is arranged between that dip light means forming (24) and its condensing optical system (26).

[0015]

[Function] Hereafter, the illumination light from the four small light sources which carried out eccentricity per principle of this invention explains taking the case of two or more oblique illumination method which illuminates a body. First, according to the 1st illumination-light study equipment of this invention, as shown, for example in drawing 3, the dip light (27B, 27C) which illuminates an objective (12) predetermined field from across is formed, and the linearly polarized light (an electric vector vibrates in the direction vertical to plane of incidence) of these dip light (27B, 27C) is carried out in the direction vertical to the plane of incidence (space) to a body (12), respectively. In addition, the linearly polarized light means the condition that the oscillating direction of the electric vector of a light wave is in 1 flat surface, and the oscillating direction of an electric vector is defined as the direction of the linearly polarized light. Moreover, with plane of incidence, when light arrives at the interface of a medium, it is defined as the thing of a field including the normal of the field in the point, and the direction of incidence of light. If the illumination-light study equipment of the drawing 3 is simplified, it will become like drawing 1.

[0016] Drawing 1 (a) shows the equivalence light source sections 10, such as the secondary light source sections of the illumination-light study equipment of drawing 3, and the four small light sources 11A-11D are arranged in accordance with the symmetrical shaft in this drawing 1 (a) about shaft x' which crosses at 45 degrees to the x axis and the y-axis which form a rectangular coordinate system, respectively and this shaft x', and the y-axis.

[0017] Drawing 1 (b) shows the outline configuration of the projection aligner which used the illumination-light study equipment of that drawing 3, and its equivalence light source section 10 is equal to the equivalence light source section of drawing 1 (a) in this drawing 1 (b). Chief ray 15A of the exposure light from small light source 11A of the equivalence light source section 10 is aslant irradiated by reticle 12 to an optical axis AX through the condenser-lens system which carried out the graphic display abbreviation. The chief ray 15A corresponds to the dip light (27B, 27C) of drawing 3. Since the plane of incidence of the chief ray 15A is parallel to the space of drawing 1 (b), according to this invention, the linearly polarized light (an electric vector vibrates in the direction vertical to space) of the chief ray 15A is carried out in the direction vertical to the space of drawing 1 (b), and it carries out incidence to reticle 12. Similarly, in drawing 1 (a), the linearly polarized light of the light from each smallness light sources 11B-11D is carried out in the direction, i.e., the direction vertical to the plane of incidence to reticle 12, of the arrow head of drawing 1 (a), and it carries out incidence to the reticle 12 of drawing 1 (b).

[0018] Moreover, incidence of the zero-order diffracted light (this is also expressed with sign 15A) from reticle 12 and the primary diffracted-light 16A is carried out on a wafer 14 through a projection optical system 13. First, supposing the patterns formed in the reticle 12 are line - long in a direction parallel to the x axis or the y-axis of drawing 1 (a) which is a suitable pattern for the conventional example, and - tooth-space pattern, since the polarization direction is the direction of 45 degree to the pattern, the illumination light diffracted in x directions or the direction of y with the pattern is in the same image formation situation as random polarization. Therefore, contrast is the same as the conventional example.

[0019] On the other hand, supposing the patterns formed in the reticle 12 are line - long in a direction vertical to x' shafts of drawing 1 (a), and - tooth-space pattern 9, the primary diffracted light of illumination-light 15A from small light source 11A will enter in the pupil of a projection optical system 13. In addition, in drawing 1 (b), x' shafts are space and parallel. Here, as shown in drawing 1 (b), zero-order diffracted-light 15A and primary diffracted-light 15B of the illumination-light 15A are S polarization (light to which an electric vector vibrates in the direction vertical to the space of drawing 1 (b)) with both the polarization directions (direction where an electric vector vibrates) parallel on the front face of a wafer 14. Therefore, it

becomes larger than the time of the cross protection on a wafer 14 being random polarization, and the image of high contrast is made. For this reason, when it diffracts in the direction of x' , and a part of diffracted light comes out of a pupil, the conventional inconvenience that contrast falls will be compensated [as explained using drawing 9 ,].

[0020] Here, the difference of the intensity distribution by the polarization direction is described below briefly. Drawing 2 has shown the situation the image surface, i.e., near the front face of a wafer 14, using P polarization (light which has the oscillating direction of an electric vector in plane of incidence), and S polarization (light with the oscillating direction of an electric vector vertical to plane of incidence). It is the incident angle of zero-order diffracted-light 15A and primary diffracted-light 16A, respectively θ_0 and θ_1 . When it carries out, the intensity distribution I_s on the image surface in S polarization (x) are briefly shown as follows using amplitude distribution $U_s(x)$.

[Equation 5]

$$I_s(x) = |U_s(x)|^2 \quad V_s(x) = a_0 \text{ and } \exp[-i(2\pi/\lambda)(\sin\theta_0)x] + a_1 \text{ and } \exp[-i(2\pi/\lambda)(\sin\theta_1)x]$$

[0021] Therefore, intensity distribution $I_s(x)$ are as follows.

[Equation 6]

$$I_s(x) = a_0^2 + a_1^2 + 2a_0 a_1 \cos[(2\pi/\lambda)(\sin\theta_0 - \sin\theta_1)x]$$

Here, it is a multiplier a_0 . And a_1 It is the (amplitude) in the strength of the zero-order diffracted light and the primary diffracted light, respectively. In the case of line - and - tooth-space pattern which have a pitch in the direction of x' , since, as for two, only the zero-order diffracted light passes a projection optical system 13 among the four small light sources, the contrast C_s of S polarization is as follows.

$$[Equation 7] \quad C_s = 2a_0 a_1 / (a_0^2 + a_1^2)$$

[0022] On the other hand, in P polarization, x components and z component of polarization must be considered. A degree type will be obtained, if the amplitude distribution U_p on the image surface in P polarization (x) is expressed with a vector and x components and z component are shown.

[Equation 8]

$$U_p(x) = () [a_0 \exp[-i(2\pi/\lambda)(\sin\theta_0)x], \text{ and }] [\cos\theta_0 + a_1 \exp[-i(2\pi/\lambda)(\sin\theta_1)x] \text{ and } \cos\theta_1, a_0 \text{ and } \exp[-i(2\pi/\lambda)(\sin\theta_0)x] \text{ and } \sin\theta_0 + a_1 \text{ and } \exp[-i(2\pi/\lambda)(\sin\theta_1)x] \text{ and } \sin\theta_1]$$

[0023] Therefore, the intensity distribution I_p on the image surface in P polarization (x) are as follows.

[Equation 9]

$$I_p(x) = |U_p(x)|^2 = a_0^2 + a_1^2 + 2a_0 a_1 x (\cos\theta_0 \cos\theta_1 + \sin\theta_0 \sin\theta_1) \cos[(2\pi/\lambda)(\sin\theta_0 - \sin\theta_1)x]$$

[0024] Therefore, the contrast C_p in P polarization is as follows.

[Equation 10]

$$C_p = 2a_0 a_1 \cos(\theta_0 - \theta_1) / (a_0^2 + a_1^2)$$

(Several 7) (several 10) is compared and, in P polarization, it turns out that contrast becomes $\cos(\theta_0 - \theta_1)$ twice. For example, considering the case of $\sin\theta_0 = 0.4$ and $\sin\theta_1 = -0.4$, it is set to $\cos(\theta_0 - \theta_1) = 0.68$ and, the case of P polarization, and in the case of S polarization, a big difference sticks. Since random polarization is considered to be an average with P polarization and S polarization, contrast is $= (1/2) + 0.68) 0.84$.

[0025] Thus, a big difference arises in contrast by considering as S polarization. That is, when the illumination light of a polarization condition like drawing 1 (a) is used, the increment in the contrast of about twenty percent is conventionally expected to line - with an parallel edge, and - tooth-space pattern in the direction which crosses at 45 degrees to a x axis and the y -axis, and it turns out that it is effective in a detailed pattern.

[0026] In addition, what is necessary is just to change into the light which carries out the linearly polarized light of the light from the light source of the shape of zona orbicularis of the equivalence light source section 10 to a direction respectively vertical to plane of incidence, i.e., the tangential direction of the circle centering on an optical axis, as shown, for example in drawing 7 (a) if this invention is applied to for example, zona-orbicularis illumination although explained until now taking the case of two or more oblique illumination method.

[0027] Next, according to the 2nd illumination-light study equipment of this invention, as shown, for example in drawing 3 , the secondary light source which carried out eccentricity by the illumination light from the light source although dip light is formed is formed. If it considers that the secondary light source is the equivalence light source 10 of drawing 1 (a), above-mentioned explanation will be applied also to this

invention as it is.

[0028]

[Example] Hereafter, with reference to drawing 3 and drawing 4, it explains per 1st example of the projection aligner equipped with the illumination-light study equipment by this invention. This example applies this invention to the illumination-light study system of a projection aligner. The illumination-light study system of the projection aligner of this example is shown, the illumination light from the light source 20 which consists of a mercury lamp is condensed in the ellipse mirror 21 in this drawing 3, and this condensed illumination light carries out incidence of drawing 3 to the fly eye lens 23 (optical integrator) through a collimator lens 22. Field-like the secondary light source is formed in the focal plane by the side of injection of the fly eye lens 23 (reticle side).

[0029] The spatial filter 24 with which four openings which carried out eccentricity to the optical axis AX were formed near the injection edge of the fly eye lens 23 is formed. Moreover, polarizing plates 25A-25D are put on the reticle side (or it may be a light source 20 side) of four openings of this spatial filter 24, respectively. However, in drawing 3, only polarizing plates 25B and 25C have appeared. As drawing 4 (a) is a sectional view which meets AA line of drawing 4 (a) and shows the front view which looked at the spatial filter 24 of drawing 3 from the reticle side, and drawing 4 (b) to these drawing 4 (a) and (b), four openings 24a-24d are formed in a spatial filter 24 at intervals of 90 degrees centering on an optical axis AX, and these openings are covered with polarizing plates 25A-25D, respectively. Moreover, the polarization direction of these polarizing plates 25A-25D is set as the tangential direction of the periphery centering on an optical axis AX, respectively, as an arrow head shows. Therefore, the linearly polarized light of the illumination light injected from the openings 24a-24d of the spatial filter 24 is carried out in the direction respectively almost parallel to the tangential direction of the periphery centering on an optical axis AX.

[0030] The four secondary light sources which carried out eccentricity to drawing 3 to the optical axis AX with return and a spatial filter 24 are formed. After the illumination light injected from these four secondary light sources passes polarizing plates 25A-25D, respectively, incidence of it is carried out to reticle 12 through the condenser-lens system 26. In addition, the spatial filter 24 (polarizing plates 25A-25D) is formed in the before [the condenser-lens system 26] side focal (light source side focus) location, and the pattern formation side of reticle 12 has the arrangement side of a spatial filter 24, and the relation of the Fourier transform about the condenser-lens system 26. Incidence of the chief rays 27B and 27C injected from the openings 24b and 24c of a spatial filter 24 in this case is aslant carried out to an optical axis AX through the condenser-lens system 26 on reticle 12, respectively. Moreover, the linearly polarized light of these chief rays 27B and 27C is carried out in the vertical direction to the plane of incidence (the direction of space) to reticle 12, respectively.

[0031] When line - which has a long edge, and - tooth-space pattern are formed in parallel or the vertical direction to the straight line which connects the openings 24a and 24c of drawing 4 (a) on reticle 12 as principle explanation of this invention explained for example, if such an illumination-light study system is used, the pattern can be projected on a wafer 14 through a projection optical system 13 under good contrast rather than before. Here, the incidence side face and body side (the reticle 12 or wafer 14) of the fly eye lens 23 are constituted by conjugate, and the injection side face (secondary light source 10) of the fly eye lens 23 and pupil surface 10A of a projection optical system 13 are constituted from equipment of drawing 3 by conjugate. in addition, another big polarizing plate between [other than the configuration of drawing 3] the fly eye lens 23 and a spatial filter 24 -- arranging -- a part of four openings 24a-24d of a spatial filter 24 -- or -- all -- alike -- 1/2 wavelength plate -- arranging -- every -- you may make it adjust the angle of rotation of 1/2 wavelength plate The illumination light which polarized also by this to the tangential direction of the periphery centering on the optical axis AX as shown in drawing 4 (a) is obtained. In this case, therefore, it is necessary to form ** and 1/2 wavelength plate in the polarization direction of another big polarizing plate at no openings of a spatial filter 24.

[0032] furthermore -- for example, -- the case where the whole spatial filter 24 of drawing 3 which serves as the equivalence light source by using the laser light source by which the laser beam of the linearly polarized light is injected as the light source is illuminated by the illumination light of the linearly polarized light -- a part of four openings 24a-24d of a spatial filter 24 -- or what is necessary is just to boil all and to form 1/2 wavelength plate of a suitable hand of cut In this case, although it is also good for a part of openings to form 1/2 wavelength plate, it is effective when the way which forms 1/2 wavelength plate in all openings reduces the variation in lighting. Thus, when the polarization direction is adjusted using 1/2 wavelength plate, since there is no loss of the illumination light, lighting effectiveness is good.

[0033] Moreover, when illuminating the spatial filter 24 of drawing 3 used as the equivalence light source

using the equipment which generates the illumination light of the circular polarization of light as a whole, it is good to form the quarter-wave length plate of the suitable hand of cut for each opening of a spatial filter 24.

[0034] Next, with reference to drawing 5, it explains per 2nd example of this invention. Drawing 5 shows the projection aligner of this example, and the illumination light from the light source 20 becomes the parallel flux of light mostly in this drawing 5 through the ellipse mirror 21, bending Miller 28, and the input lens 29. Supply of the illumination light to the input lens 29 is suspended at any time by bending with that ellipse mirror 21, arranging a shutter 30 among Miller 28, and closing this shutter 30 with a drive motor 31. As the light source 1, the excimer laser which generates for example, KrF laser light etc. can be used out of a mercury lamp. When using an excimer laser, a beam expander etc. is used instead of the optical system to the ellipse mirror 21 - the input lens 29.

[0035] And the 2nd polyhedron prism 33 which has the heights of the 1st polyhedron prism 32 which has the crevice of 4 pyramid molds (pyramid mold), and 4 pyramid molds (pyramid mold) sequentially from the input lens 29 is arranged. The illumination light injected from this 2nd polyhedron prism 33 is divided into the four flux of lights with equiangular around the optical axis centering on the optical axis.

[0036] Incidence of the flux of light divided into these four pieces is carried out to the fly eye lenses 34A, 34B, 34C, and 34D of the 2nd group, respectively. Although only the fly eye lenses 34A and 34B are shown by drawing 5, on both sides of the optical axis, two fly eye lenses 34C and 34D are arranged in the direction vertical to the space of drawing 5. And the flux of light injected from fly eye lens 34A is mostly changed into the parallel flux of light through the guide optical system which consists of lens systems 35A and 36A, and carries out incidence to fly eye lens 37A of the 1st group. Similarly the flux of light which injected fly eye lens 34B of the 2nd group It is mostly changed into the parallel flux of light through the guide optical system which consists of lens systems 35B and 36B, and incidence is carried out to fly eye lens 37B of the 1st group. Incidence of ** which carries out a graphic display abbreviation, and the flux of light which injected the fly eye lenses 34C and 34D of the 2nd group is carried out to the fly eye lenses 37C and 37D of the 1st group through guide optical system, respectively.

[0037] The fly eye lenses 37A-37D of the 1st group are arranged at intervals of 90 degrees around the optical axis. Although field-like the secondary light source is formed in the reticle side focal plane of the fly eye lenses 37A-37D of the 1st group, respectively, the adjustable aperture diaphragms 38A-38D are arranged to the forming face of these secondary light sources, respectively. Furthermore, polarizing plates 39A-39D are arranged, respectively to the reticle side of these adjustable aperture diaphragms 38A-38D. In addition, in drawing 5, only the adjustable aperture diaphragms 13A and 13B and polarizing plates 39A and 39B have appeared.

[0038] It is moderately condensed through the auxiliary condenser lens 40, Miller 41, and the main condenser lens 42, respectively, and the illumination light which penetrated and injected polarizing plates 39A-39D from these adjustable aperture diaphragms 38A-38D illuminates reticle 12 with an almost uniform illuminance. The pattern of the reticle 12 is imprinted for the predetermined cutback scale factor beta according to a projection optical system 13 by the wafer 14 on the wafer stage WS. The polarization direction of these polarizing plates 39A-39D is parallel to the tangential direction of the periphery centering on an optical axis AX. For example, chief ray 43A of the flux of light penetrated and injected carries out incidence of adjustable aperture-diaphragm 38A to the polarizing plate 39A aslant to an optical axis AX on reticle 12, where the linearly polarized light is carried out in the direction vertical to space. In addition, the polarizing plates 39A-39D shown in drawing 5 are substantially formed in the before [the condenser-lens system of the synthetic system of the auxiliary condenser lens 40 and the main condenser lens] side focal (light source side focus) location, and this location is pupil surface 10A of a projection optical system 13, and conjugation substantially.

[0039] The contrast of the projection image on line [of the predetermined direction of / on reticle 12] - and the wafer 14 of - tooth-space pattern is improvable with this example. Furthermore, since the fly eye lenses 34A-34D of the 2nd group other than the fly eye lenses 37A-37D of the 1st group are formed, the homogeneity of the illuminance on reticle 12 is improved further. In addition, in drawing 5, polarizing plates 39A and 39B may be arranged, for example in the locations 44A and 44B between relay optical system, respectively, and may be arranged in the location of further others. Moreover, when the illumination light from the light source 20 is already the linearly polarized light, 1/2 wavelength plate may be used instead of polarizing plates 39A and 39B.

[0040] Next, with reference to drawing 6 and drawing 7, it explains per 3rd example of this invention. This example changes the spatial filter 24 of the 1st example shown in drawing 3 explained previously, and

shows the example which formed the spatial filter 240 which has opening 240a of the shape of **** zona orbicularis shown in drawing 6 (a) in the injection side of the fly eye lens 23. The secondary light source 45 of the shape of zona orbicularis which carried out eccentricity to the injection side of the fly eye lens 23 from the optical axis AX by arrangement of this spatial filter 240 as shown in drawing 6 (a) is formed, and the light from the secondary light source 45 of the shape of this zona orbicularis reaches pupil surface 10A (incidence pupil surface) of a projection optical system 13 through a condenser lens 26 and reticle 12, as shown in drawing 3. Here, if the situation of the zero-order diffracted light and the primary diffracted light by line [of reticle 12] - and diffraction operation of - tooth-space pattern is considered in order to simplify explanation, as shown in drawing 6 (b), primary diffracted-light 45B of the shape of zona orbicularis to which the strike slip of zero-order diffracted-light 45A of the shape of zona orbicularis [**** / the zona-orbicularis light source 45] and the zona-orbicularis-like zero-order diffracted-light 45A was carried out will be formed in pupil surface 10A of this projection optical system 13.

[0041] In this case, in this example, as shown in drawing 7 (a), the polarizing plate 250 of the shape of zona orbicularis which polarizes the illumination light injected from the secondary light source 45 of the shape of zona orbicularis of the equivalence light source section 10 to the tangential direction of the periphery centering on an optical axis AX, respectively is formed on the spatial filter 240. Thereby, the image of high contrast can be obtained to a detailed pattern. In addition, as shown in drawing 7 (b), polarizing plates 250A-250H are formed on each zone using the spatial filter 240 with opening which divides the zona-orbicularis-like light source into each radii-like zone, and you may make it become the illumination light of the linearly polarized light of the tangential direction of the periphery centering on an optical axis AX for every zone.

[0042] In addition, as for this invention, it is needless to say that configurations various in the range which is not limited to the above-mentioned example and does not deviate from the summary of this invention can be taken.

[0043]

[Effect of the Invention] According to the 1st [of this invention], and 2nd illumination-light study equipment, it inclines to a body, and when the pattern on the body is line - and - tooth-space pattern which make a longitudinal direction a direction vertical to the plane of incidence of the illumination light, and the pattern of the body is projected by the projection optical system, there is [since the illumination light which carries out incidence is polarizing in the direction vertical to plane of incidence] an advantage which can improve the contrast of the image substantially.

[Translation done.]

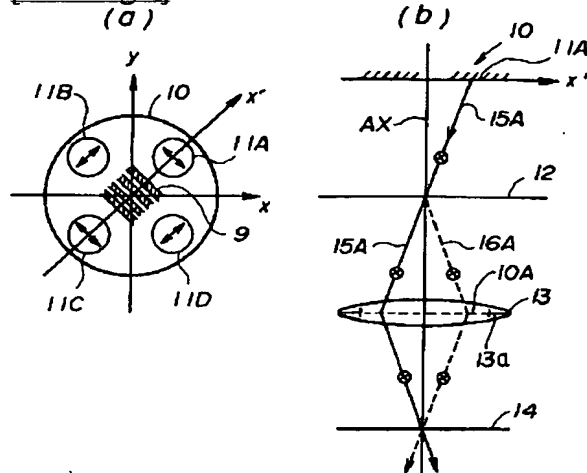
* NOTICES *

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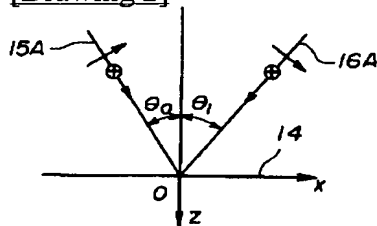
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DRAWINGS

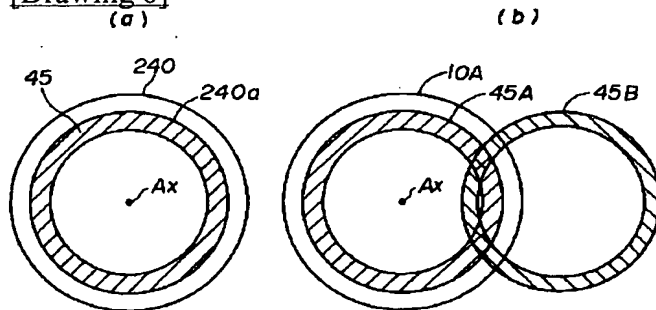
[Drawing 1]



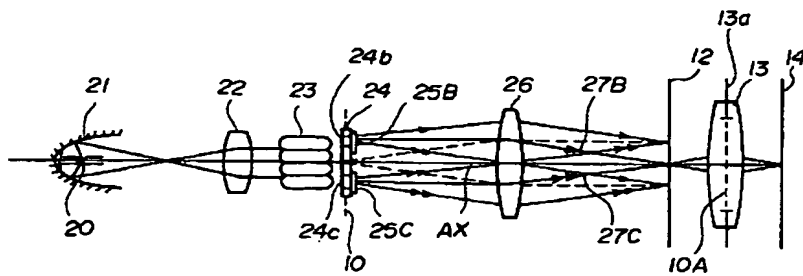
[Drawing 2]



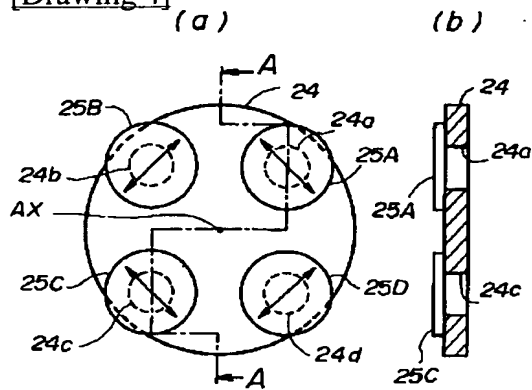
[Drawing 6]



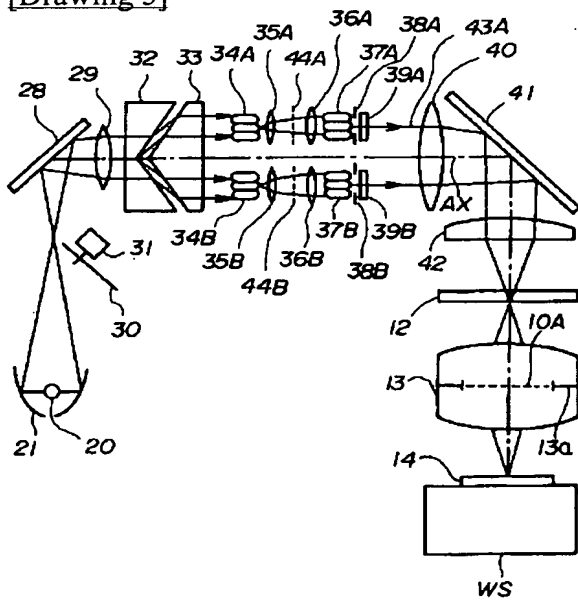
[Drawing 3]



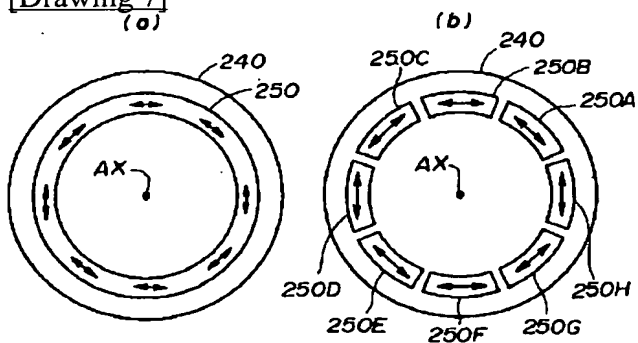
[Drawing 4]



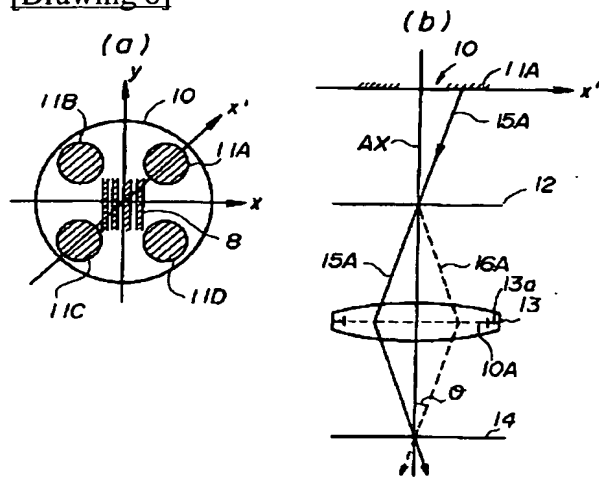
[Drawing 5]



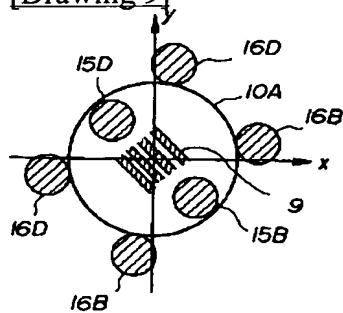
[Drawing 7]



[Drawing 8]



[Drawing 9]



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CORRECTION OR AMENDMENT

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[Procedure amendment]
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 [Procedure amendment 1]
 [Document to be Amended] Description
 [Item(s) to be Amended] The name of invention
 [Method of Amendment] Modification
 [Proposed Amendment]
 [Title of the Invention] The exposure approach using illumination-light study equipment and this equipment
 [Procedure amendment 2]
 [Document to be Amended] Description
 [Item(s) to be Amended] Claim
 [Method of Amendment] Modification
 [Proposed Amendment]
 [Claim(s)]
 [Claim 1] In the illumination-light study equipment which illuminates the predetermined field on a body to homogeneity by the illumination light from an illumination-light study system,
 Said illumination-light study system is illumination-light study equipment characterized by having a polarization means to form the illumination light which carries out the linearly polarized light in the dip light means forming which forms the dip light which illuminates said predetermined field from across, and the direction which intersected perpendicularly to the plane of incidence of said dip light which changes this dip light and carries out oblique illumination of said predetermined field.
 [Claim 2] In the illumination-light study equipment which has the light source which supplies the illumination light, and the condensing optical system which illuminates the predetermined field on a body to homogeneity by this illumination light,
 The dip light means forming which forms the secondary light source which carried out eccentricity to the optical axis of said condensing optical system by said illumination light, and illuminates said predetermined field from across is arranged between said light sources and said condensing optical system,

Illumination-light study equipment characterized by having changed this dip light and having arranged a polarization means to form the illumination light which carries out the linearly polarized light in the direction which intersected perpendicularly to the plane of incidence of the dip light which carries out oblique illumination of said predetermined field, between said dip light means forming and said condensing optical system.

[Claim 3] The exposure approach characterized by illuminating the reticle as said body using illumination-light study equipment according to claim 1 or 2, and imprinting the pattern of said reticle.

[Procedure amendment 3]

[Document to be Amended] Description

[Item(s) to be Amended] 0012

[Method of Amendment] Modification

[Proposed Amendment]

[0012] In addition, although above-mentioned explanation explained the case of two or more oblique illumination method as an example, even when zona-orbicularis illumination etc. is used, for example, to improve the contrast of an image more is desired. In the exposure approach which uses the illumination-light study equipment and such illumination-light study equipment which illuminate reticle etc., using positively the illumination light toward which this invention inclined to the optical axis in view of this point When patterns, such as the reticle, are line - and - tooth-space patterns which make a longitudinal direction a direction vertical to the plane of incidence of the illumination light When patterns, such as the reticle, are projected by the projection optical system, it aims at enabling it to improve the contrast of the image with the device by the side of illumination-light study equipment.

[Procedure amendment 4]

[Document to be Amended] Description

[Item(s) to be Amended] 0014

[Method of Amendment] Modification

[Proposed Amendment]

[0014] Moreover, the 2nd illumination-light study equipment is set to the illumination-light study equipment which has the light source (20) which supplies the illumination light, and the condensing optical system (26) which illuminates the predetermined field on a body (12) to homogeneity by this illumination light, as shown in drawing 3. The dip light means forming (24) which forms the secondary light source which carried out eccentricity to the optical axis of the condensing optical system by the illumination light, and illuminates the predetermined field from across is arranged between the light source (20) and its condensing optical system (26). This dip light is changed and a polarization means (25B, 25C) to form the illumination light which carries out the linearly polarized light in the direction which intersected perpendicularly to the plane of incidence of the dip light which carries out oblique illumination of that predetermined field is arranged between that dip light means forming (24) and its condensing optical system (26). Moreover, the exposure approach by this invention illuminates the reticle as the body using the illumination-light study equipment of this invention, and imprints the pattern of the reticle.

[Procedure amendment 5]

[Document to be Amended] Description

[Item(s) to be Amended] 0028

[Method of Amendment] Modification

[Proposed Amendment]

[0028]

[Example] Hereafter, with reference to drawing 3 and drawing 4, it explains per 1st example of this invention. This example applies this invention to the illumination-light study system of a projection aligner. The illumination-light study system of the projection aligner of this example is shown, the illumination light from the light source 20 which consists of a mercury lamp is condensed in the ellipse mirror 21 in this drawing 3, and this condensed illumination light carries out incidence of drawing 3 to the fly eye lens 23 (optical integrator) through a collimator lens 22. Field-like the secondary light source is formed in the focal plane by the side of injection of the fly eye lens 23 (reticle side).

[Procedure amendment 6]

[Document to be Amended] Description

[Item(s) to be Amended] 0043

[Method of Amendment] Modification

[Proposed Amendment]

[0043]

[Effect of the Invention] According to this invention, it inclines to a body, and when the pattern on the body is line - and - tooth-space pattern which make a longitudinal direction a direction vertical to the plane of incidence of the illumination light, and the pattern of the body is projected by the projection optical system, there is [since the illumination light which carries out incidence is polarizing in the direction vertical to plane of incidence,] an advantage which can improve the contrast of the image substantially.

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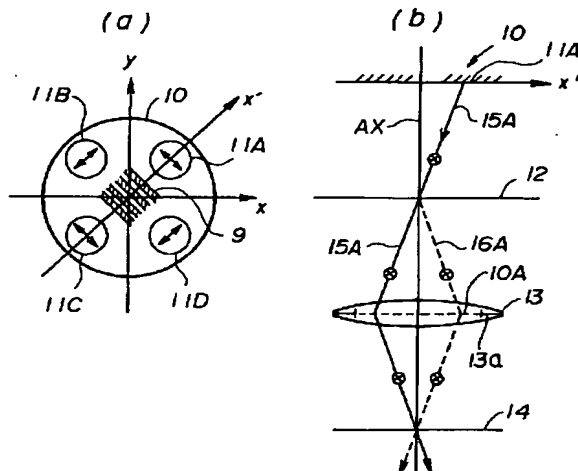
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(54)【発明の名称】 照明光学装置

(57)【要約】

【目的】 複数傾斜照明を行う場合に、レチクルのパターンがその照明光の入射面に垂直な方向を長手方向とするライン・アンド・スペースパターンであるようなときに、その像のコントラストを改善する。

【構成】 2次光源形成部としての空間フィルター24の4個の開口24a~24dをそれぞれ偏光板25A~25Dで覆い、偏光板25A~25Dの偏光方向を光軸AXを軸とする円周の接線方向に設定する。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 照明光学系からの照明光によって物体上の所定領域を均一に照明する照明光学装置において、前記照明光学系は、前記所定領域を斜め方向から照明する傾斜光を形成する傾斜光形成手段と、該傾斜光を変換して、前記所定領域を傾斜照明する前記傾斜光の入射面に対し直交した方向に直線偏光する照明光を形成する偏光手段とを有することを特徴とする照明光学装置。

【請求項2】 照明光を供給する光源と該照明光で物体上の所定領域を均一に照明する集光光学系とを有する照明光学装置において、前記照明光によって前記集光光学系の光軸に対し偏心した2次光源を形成して前記所定領域を斜め方向から照明する傾斜光形成手段を前記光源と前記集光光学系との間に配置し、該傾斜光を変換して、前記所定領域を傾斜照明する傾斜光の入射面に対し直交した方向に直線偏光する照明光を形成する偏光手段を前記傾斜光形成手段と前記集光光学系との間に配置したことを特徴とする照明光学装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は、例えば半導体素子又は液晶表示素子等を製造する際に使用される投影露光装置の照明系に適用して好適な照明光学装置に関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】半導体素子又は液晶表示素子等をフォトリソグラフィ技術を用いて製造する際に、フォトリソマスク又はレチクル（以下、「レチクル」と総称する）のパターンを感光基板上に転写する投影露光装置が使用されている。斯かる投影露光装置においては、半導体素子等の高集積化に伴い、より微細なパターンを高解像度で焼き付けることが要求されている。これを実現する方法として、レチクルのパターン領域の異なる透明部からの光の干渉効果を利用する位相シフトレチクル法が特公昭62-50811号公報に開示されている。この方法をライン・アンド・スペース像に應用すると基本的に0次回折光がなくなり、±1次回折光のみによる結像となり、同一の開口数の投影光学系でも従来のレチクルの場合よりも微細なライン・アンド・スペース像を高い解像度で焼き付けることができる。

【0003】また、より解像度を高めるための別のアプローチとして、照明光学系を工夫して、微細なパターンを高い解像度で且つ比較的深い焦点深度で焼き付ける方法が本出願人により提案されている（例えば1992年3月応用物理学関係連合講演会予稿集30-a-N-A-3、4参照）。以下ではその方法を「複数傾斜照明法」と呼び、図8を参照してその方法につき説明する。先ず図8（a）は複数傾斜照明法を適用した照明光学系における2次光源部等の等価光源部10を示し、この図8

（a）において、直交座標系を形成するx軸及びy軸に

対してそれぞれ45°で交差する軸x'及びこの軸x'とy軸に関して対称な軸に沿って4個の小光源11A～11Dが配置されている。この小光源11A～11Dの配列は、転写対象とするレチクルのパターンが主にx軸に平行な長いエッジ又はy軸に平行な長いエッジを有するライン・アンド・スペースパターンの場合に適している。

【0004】図8（b）はその図8（a）の等価光源部10を光源とする投影露光装置の概略構成を示し、この図8（b）において、等価光源部10の小光源11Aからの照明光の主光線15Aが図示省略したコンデンサーレンズ系を介してレチクル12に光軸AXに対して斜めに照射される。等価光源部10は投影光学系13の瞳面（入射瞳面）10Aと共役であり、この瞳面には開口絞り13aが設けられている。そのレチクル12からは0次回折光（これも符号15Aで表す）及び1次回折光16Aが光軸AXに対してほぼ対称に射出され、これら0次回折光15A及び1次回折光16Aは投影光学系13を経てをほぼ同一の入射角θで感光基板としてのウエハ14に入射する。この場合、0次回折光15Aと1次回折光とが光軸AXに対して対称に瞳の周縁近くを通過するため、投影光学系13の性能限界までの解像度が得られる。

【0005】また、従来のように0次回折光がウエハ14に垂直に入射する方式では、ウエハ14のデフォーカス量に対する0次回折光の波面収差と他の回折光の波面収差とが大きく異なることから、焦点深度が浅くなっている。これに対して、図8（b）の構成では、0次回折光と1次回折光とが等しい入射角でウエハ14に入射するため、ウエハ14が投影光学系13の焦点位置の前後にあるときの0次回折光と1次回折光との波面収差は相等しく、焦点深度が深くなっている。

【0006】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】その複数傾斜照明法では、x軸方向又はy軸方向のライン・アンド・スペースパターン8であれば有効である。これに対して、図9に示すように、長いエッジがx軸又はy軸に対して45°の方向のライン・アンド・スペースパターン9の場合は、10Aが投影光学系の瞳であるとする、図8

（a）の4つの小光源11A～11Dのうちの2つの小光源11B及び11Dからの回折光は、0次回折光15B及び15Dのみが投影レンズの瞳10Aを通過し、±1次回折光16B及び16Dは瞳10Aを通過しないため、ウエハ14上でパターンを形成することではなく、単にウエハ14を一様に照明することになる。その結果、ウエハ14上でのパターンのコントラストが低下することとなる。

【0007】このことを簡単な数値計算で示す。0次回折光の強さに対する±1次回折光の強さをaとし、各小光源11A～11Dは点光源とみなす。このとき、y軸

方向に長いライン・アンド・スペースパターンの場合の
x 軸上の像強度分布 $I(x)$ は各小光源による像強度分

$$I(x) = 4 \{1 + a^2 + 2a \cdot \cos[(4\pi/\lambda)(\sin\theta)x]\}$$

【0008】ここで、入射角 θ は、図8(b)に示すように、0次回折光又は±1次回折光が光軸AXとなす角である。これに対して、x軸又はy軸に45°で交差する方向に長いライン・アンド・スペースパターンの場合

$$I(x') = 2 \{1 + a^2 + 2a \cdot \cos[(4\pi/\lambda)(\sin\theta)x]\} + 2 \{1\} \\ = 4 \{1 + (a^2/2) + a \cdot \cos[(4\pi/\lambda)(\sin\theta)x]\}$$

【0009】(数1)及び(数2)から各々の強度分布のコントラスト C_x 及び $C_{x'}$ を求めると、次のように

$$C_x = 2a / (1 + a^2), \quad C_{x'} = a / (1 + a^2/2)$$

【0010】この場合、次式が成立する。

$$C_x - C_{x'} = a / \{(1 + a^2)(1 + a^2/2)\} > 0$$

従って、次式が成立する。

【数4】 $C_x > C_{x'}$

【0011】従って、x軸に45°で交差する方向に長いパターンのコントラストの低下が示される。例えばラインとスペースとの幅が等しい場合には、±1次回折光の強さ a は $2/\pi$ となるので、次式のようになる。

$$C_x = 0.906, \quad C_{x'} = 0.529$$

【0012】なお、上述の説明では複数傾斜照明法の場合を例として説明したが、例えば輪帯照明法等を使用した場合でも、像のコントラストをより改善することが望まれている。本発明は斯かる点に鑑み、光軸に対して傾斜した照明光を積極的に利用してレチクル等を照明する照明光学装置において、そのレチクル等のパターンがその照明光の入射面に垂直な方向を長手方向とするライン・アンド・スペースパターンであるような場合に、投影光学系でそのレチクル等のパターンを投影したときに照明光学装置側の工夫でその像のコントラストを改善できるようにすることを目的とする。

【0013】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明による第1の照明光学装置は、例えば図3に示すように、照明光学系からの照明光によって物体(12)上の所定領域を均一に照明する照明光学装置において、その照明光学系は、その所定領域を斜め方向から照明する傾斜光(27B, 27C)を形成する傾斜光形成手段(24)と、この傾斜光を変換して、その所定領域を傾斜照明するその傾斜光の入射面に対し直交した方向に直線偏光する照明光を形成する偏光手段(25B, 25C)とを有するものである。

【0014】また、第2の照明光学装置は、例えば図3に示すように、照明光を供給する光源(20)とこの照明光で物体(12)上の所定領域を均一に照明する集光光学系(26)とを有する照明光学装置において、その照明光によってその集光光学系の光軸に対し偏心した2次光源を形成してその所定領域を斜め方向から照明する

布の和として次のようになる。

【数1】

に、45°方向の座標軸を x' 軸とすると、強度分布 $I(x')$ は次のようになる。

【数2】

なる。

【数3】

傾斜光形成手段(24)をその光源(20)とその集光光学系(26)との間に配置し、この傾斜光を変換して、その所定領域を傾斜照明する傾斜光の入射面に対し直交した方向に直線偏光する照明光を形成する偏光手段(25B, 25C)をその傾斜光形成手段(24)とその集光光学系(26)との間に配置したものである。

【0015】

【作用】以下、本発明の原理につき偏心した4個の小光源からの照明光で物体を照明する複数傾斜照明法を例にとって説明する。まず、本発明の第1の照明光学装置によれば、例えば図3に示すように、物体(12)の所定領域を斜め方向から照明する傾斜光(27B, 27C)が形成され、これら傾斜光(27B, 27C)はそれぞれ物体(12)に対する入射面(紙面)に垂直な方向に直線偏光(入射面に垂直な方向に電気ベクトルが振動)している。なお、直線偏光とは、光波の電気ベクトルの振動方向が一平面内にある状態を意味し、電気ベクトルの振動方向を直線偏光の方向と定義する。また、入射面とは、光が媒質の境界面に達した時に、その点での面の法線と光の入射方向とを含む面の事と定義する。その図3の照明光学装置を簡略化すると図1のようになる。

【0016】図1(a)は図3の照明光学装置の2次光源部等の等価光源部10を示し、この図1(a)において、直交座標系を形成するx軸及びy軸に対してそれぞれ45°で交差する軸 x' 及びこの軸 x' とy軸に関して対称な軸に沿って4個の小光源11A~11Dが配置されている。

【0017】図1(b)はその図3の照明光学装置を用いた投影露光装置の概略構成を示し、この図1(b)において、等価光源部10は図1(a)の等価光源部と等しい。その等価光源部10の小光源11Aからの露光光の主光線15Aが図示省略したコンデンサーレンズ系を介してレチクル12に光軸AXに対して斜めに照射される。その主光線15Aが図3の傾斜光(27B, 27C)に対応する。その主光線15Aの入射面は図1

(b)の紙面に平行であるため、本発明によれば、その主光線15Aは図1(b)の紙面に垂直な方向に直線偏光(紙面に垂直な方向に電気ベクトルが振動)してレチクル12に入射する。同様に、図1(a)において、各小光源11B~11Dからの光は、図1(a)の矢印の方向即ち、レチクル12に対する入射面に垂直な方向に直線偏光して図1(b)のレチクル12に入射する。

【0018】また、レチクル12からの0次回折光(これをも符号15Aで表す)及び1次回折光16Aは投影光学系13を経てウエハ14上に入射する。先ず、そのレチクル12に形成されたパターンが、従来例に好適なパターンである図1(a)のx軸又はy軸に平行な方向に長いライン・アンド・スペースパターンであるとする、そのパターンによりx方向又はy方向に回折された照明光は、偏光方向がそのパターンに対して45°方向であるので、ランダム偏光と同じ結像状況である。従って、コントラストは従来例と同様である。

【0019】これに対して、そのレチクル12に形成されたパターンが、図1(a)のx'軸に垂直な方向に長いライン・アンド・スペースパターン9であるとする、小光源11Aからの照明光15Aの1次回折光が投影光学系13の瞳内に入ることになる。尚、図1(b)

$$I_s(x) = |U_s(x)|^2, \\ V_s(x) = a_0 \cdot \exp[-i(2\pi/\lambda)(\sin\theta_0)x] \\ + a_1 \cdot \exp[-i(2\pi/\lambda)(\sin\theta_1)x]$$

【0021】従って、強度分布 $I_s(x)$ は次のようになる。

$$I_s(x) = a_0^2 + a_1^2 \\ + 2a_0a_1 \cdot \cos[(2\pi/\lambda)(\sin\theta_0 - \sin\theta_1)x]$$

ここで、係数 a_0 及び a_1 はそれぞれ0次回折光及び1次回折光の強さ(振幅)である。x'方向にピッチを持つライン・アンド・スペースパターンの場合、4つの小光源の内、2つは0次回折光しか投影光学系13を通過しないのでS偏光のコントラスト C_s は次のようになる。

$$U_p(x) = (a_0 \cdot \exp[-i(2\pi/\lambda)(\sin\theta_0)x] \cdot \cos\theta_0 \\ + a_1 \cdot \exp[-i(2\pi/\lambda)(\sin\theta_1)x] \cdot \cos\theta_1, \\ a_0 \cdot \exp[-i(2\pi/\lambda)(\sin\theta_0)x] \cdot \sin\theta_0 \\ + a_1 \cdot \exp[-i(2\pi/\lambda)(\sin\theta_1)x] \cdot \sin\theta_1)$$

【0023】従って、P偏光の場合の像面上の強度分布 $I_p(x)$ は次のようになる。

$$I_p(x) = |U_p(x)|^2 \\ = a_0^2 + a_1^2 + 2a_0a_1 \\ \times (\cos\theta_0 \cos\theta_1 + \sin\theta_0 \sin\theta_1) \\ \times \cos[(2\pi/\lambda)(\sin\theta_0 - \sin\theta_1)x]$$

【0024】従って、P偏光の場合のコントラスト C_p は次のようになる。

$$C_p = 2a_0a_1 \cos(\theta_0 - \theta_1) / (a_0^2 + a_1^2)$$

(数7)と(数10)とを比較して、P偏光の場合は、コントラストが $\cos(\theta_0 - \theta_1)$ 倍となることが分

ではx'軸は紙面と平行になっている。ここで、図1(b)に示すように、その照明光15Aの0次回折光15A及び1次回折光15Bは共に偏光方向(電気ベクトルの振動する方向)がウエハ14の表面で平行なS偏光(図1(b)の紙面に垂直な方向に電気ベクトルが振動する光)である。従って、ウエハ14上における干渉効果がランダム偏光のときよりも大きくなり、高コントラストの像が作られる。このため、図9を用いて説明したようにx'方向に回折された場合に、回折光の一部が瞳外に出てしまうことによりコントラストが低下するという従来の不都合が補われることになる。

【0020】ここで、偏光方向による強度分布の差を簡単に以下に述べる。図2では、像面、即ちウエハ14の表面付近の様子をP偏光(電気ベクトルの振動方向が入射面内にある光)とS偏光(電気ベクトルの振動方向が入射面と垂直な光)を用いて示してある。0次回折光15A及び1次回折光16Aの入射角をそれぞれ θ_0 及び θ_1 とすると、S偏光の場合の像面上の強度分布 $I_s(x)$ は振幅分布 $U_s(x)$ を用いて次のように簡単に示される。

【数5】

【数6】

【数7】 $C_s = 2a_0a_1 / (a_0^2 + a_1^2)$

【0022】一方、P偏光の場合は、偏光のx成分と、z成分とを考えなくては行けない。P偏光の場合の像面上の振幅分布 $U_p(x)$ をベクトルで表して、x成分とz成分とを示すと次式が得られる。

【数8】

【数9】

【数10】

かる。例えば、 $\sin\theta_0 = 0.4$ 、 $\sin\theta_1 = -0.4$ の場合を考えると、 $\cos(\theta_0 - \theta_1) = 0$ 。

68となり、P偏光の場合とS偏光の場合とでは大きな差がつく。ランダム偏光は、P偏光とS偏光との平均と考えられるので、コントラストは $(1/2)(1+0.68)=0.84$ である。

【0025】このように、S偏光とすることにより、コントラストに大きな差が生じる。即ち、図1(a)のような偏光状態の照明光を使用すると、x軸及びy軸に対して45°で交差する方向にエッジが平行なライン・アンド・スペースパターンに対して、従来よりも2割程度のコントラストの増加が見込まれ、微細パターンに有効

であることが分かる。
【0026】なお、これまでは複数傾斜照明法を例にとって説明したが、本発明を例えば輪帯照明法に適用すると、例えば図7(a)に示すように、等価光源部10の輪帯状の光源からの光をそれぞれ入射面に垂直な方向、即ち光軸を中心とした円の接線方向に直線偏光する光に変換すればよい。

【0027】次に、本発明の第2の照明光学装置によれば、例えば図3に示すように、傾斜光を形成するのに、光源からの照明光により偏心した2次光源が形成されている。その2次光源を例えば図1(a)の等価光源10とみなせば、上述の説明はそのまま本発明にも適用される。

【0028】

【実施例】以下、本発明による照明光学装置を備えた投影露光装置の第1実施例につき図3及び図4を参照して説明する。本例は投影露光装置の照明光学系に本発明を適用したものである。図3は本実施例の投影露光装置の照明光学系を示し、この図3において、水銀ランプよりなる光源20からの照明光が楕円鏡21で集光され、この集光された照明光がコリメータレンズ22を介してフライアイレンズ23(オプティカルインテグレータ)に入射する。フライアイレンズ23の射出側(レチクル側)の焦点面には面状の2次光源が形成される。

【0029】フライアイレンズ23の射出端付近に光軸AXに対して偏心した4個の開口が形成された空間フィルター24を設ける。また、この空間フィルター24の4個の開口のレチクル側(又は光源20側でもよい)にそれぞれ偏光板25A~25Dを被着する。但し、図3では偏光板25B及び25Cのみが現れている。図4

(a)は図3の空間フィルター24をレチクル側から見た正面図、図4(b)は図4(a)のAA線に沿う断面図であり、これら図4(a)及び(b)に示すように、空間フィルター24には光軸AXを中心として、90°間隔で4個の開口24a~24dが形成され、これら開口がそれぞれ偏光板25A~25Dで覆われている。また、それら偏光板25A~25Dの偏光方向はそれぞれ矢印で示すように、光軸AXを中心とした円周の接線方向に設定されている。従って、その空間フィルター24の開口24a~24dから射出される照明光は、それぞ

れ光軸AXを中心とした円周の接線方向にほぼ平行な方向に直線偏光している。

【0030】図3に戻り、空間フィルター24により光軸AXに対して偏心した4個の2次光源が形成される。それら4個の2次光源から射出された照明光はそれぞれ偏光板25A~25Dを通過した後に、コンデンサーレンズ系26を経てレチクル12に入射する。尚、コンデンサーレンズ系26の前側焦点(光源側焦点)位置には、空間フィルター24(偏光板25A~25D)が設けられており、レチクル12のパターン形成面はコンデンサーレンズ系26に関して空間フィルター24の配置面とフーリエ変換の関係にある。この場合、例えば空間フィルター24の開口24b及び24cから射出された主光線27B及び27Cはコンデンサーレンズ系26を経てそれぞれレチクル12上に光軸AXに対して斜めに入射する。また、これら主光線27B及び27Cはそれぞれレチクル12に対する入射面(紙面方向)に対して垂直な方向に直線偏光している。

【0031】このような照明光学系を使用すると、本発明の原理説明で説明したように、例えばレチクル12上に図4(a)の開口24aと24cとを結ぶ直線に対して平行又は垂直な方向に長いエッジを有するライン・アンド・スペースパターンが形成されている場合に、従来よりも良好なコントラストのもとでそのパターンを投影光学系13を通してウエハ14上に投影することができる。ここで、図3の装置では、フライアイレンズ23の入射側面と物体面(レチクル12又はウエハ14)とが共役に構成されており、フライアイレンズ23の射出側面(2次光源10)と投影光学系13の瞳面10Aとが共役に構成されている。なお、図3の構成の他に、フライアイレンズ23と空間フィルター24との間に別の大きな偏光板を配置し、空間フィルター24の4個の開口24a~24dの一部又は全部に1/2波長板を配置して、各1/2波長板の回転角を調整するようにしてもよい。これによっても、図4(a)に示すような、光軸AXを中心とする円周の接線方向に偏光した照明光が得られる。この場合、別の大きな偏光板の偏光方向によつては、1/2波長板は空間フィルター24のすべての開口に設ける必要はない。

【0032】更に、例えば光源として直線偏光のレーザービームが射出されるようなレーザー光源を使用することにより、等価光源となる図3の空間フィルター24の全体を直線偏光の照明光で照明する場合には、空間フィルター24の4個の開口24a~24dの一部または全部に適当な回転方向の1/2波長板を設けるだけでよい。この場合、一部の開口に1/2波長板を設けるだけでもよいが、全部の開口に1/2波長板を設けるほうが照明のバラツキを低減する上で効果がある。このように1/2波長板を使用して偏光方向を調整した場合には、照明光の損失がないので照明効率が良い。

【0033】また、全体として円偏光の照明光を発生する装置を用いて、等価光源となる図3の空間フィルター24を照明する場合には、空間フィルター24の各開口に適当な回転方向の1/4波長板を設けることがよい。

【0034】次に、本発明の第2実施例につき図5を参照して説明する。図5は本例の投影露光装置を示し、この図5において、光源20からの照明光は楕円鏡21、折り曲げミラー28及びインプットレンズ29を経てほぼ平行光束になる。その楕円鏡21と折り曲げミラー28との間にシャッター30を配置し、このシャッター30を駆動モーター31で閉じることにより、インプットレンズ29に対する照明光の供給を随時停止する。光源1としては、水銀ランプの外に、例えばKrFレーザー光等を発生するエキシマレーザー光源等を使用することができる。エキシマレーザー光源を使用する場合には、楕円鏡21～インプットレンズ29までの光学系の代わりにビームエクスパンダ等が使用される。

【0035】そして、インプットレンズ29から順に、4角錐型（ピラミッド型）の凹部を有する第1の多面体プリズム32及び4角錐型（ピラミッド型）の凸部を有する第2の多面体プリズム33を配置する。この第2の多面体プリズム33から射出される照明光は、光軸を中心として光軸の周囲に等角度で4個の光束に分割されている。

【0036】これら4個に分割された光束をそれぞれ第2群のフライアイレンズ34A、34B、34C及び34Dに入射させる。図5ではフライアイレンズ34A及び34Bのみが示されているが、図5の紙面に垂直な方向に光軸を挟んで2個のフライアイレンズ34C及び34Dが配置されている。そして、フライアイレンズ34Aから射出された光束は、レンズ系35A及び36Aよりなるガイド光学系を介してほぼ平行光束に変換されて第1群のフライアイレンズ37Aに入射する。同様に、第2群のフライアイレンズ34Bを射出した光束は、レンズ系35B及び36Bよりなるガイド光学系を介してほぼ平行光束に変換されて第1群のフライアイレンズ37Bに入射し、図示省略するも、第2群のフライアイレンズ34C及び34Dを射出した光束は、それぞれガイド光学系を介して第1群のフライアイレンズ37C及び37Dに入射する。

【0037】第1群のフライアイレンズ37A～37Dは光軸の回りに90°間隔で配置されている。第1群のフライアイレンズ37A～37Dのレチクル側焦点面にはそれぞれ面状の2次光源が形成されるが、それら2次光源の形成面にそれぞれ可変開口絞り38A～38Dを配置する。更に、これら可変開口絞り38A～38Dのレチクル側にそれぞれ偏光板39A～39Dを配置する。なお、図5では可変開口絞り13A、13B及び偏光板39A、39Bのみが現れている。

【0038】それら可変開口絞り38A～38Dから偏

光板39A～39Dを透過して射出した照明光は、それぞれ補助コンデンサーレンズ40、ミラー41及び主コンデンサーレンズ42を経て適度に集光されてレチクル12をほぼ均一な照度で照明する。そのレチクル12のパターンが投影光学系13によりウエハステージWS上のウエハ14に所定の縮小倍率 β で転写される。それら偏光板39A～39Dの偏光方向は、光軸AXを中心とする円周の接線方向に平行である。例えば可変開口絞り38Aから偏光板39Aを透過して射出される光束の主光線43Aは、紙面に垂直な方向に直線偏光した状態でレチクル12上に光軸AXに対して斜めに入射する。なお、図5に示した偏光板39A～39Dは、実質的に、補助コンデンサーレンズ40と主コンデンサーレンズとの合成系のコンデンサーレンズ系の前側焦点（光源側焦点）位置に設けられており、この位置は実質的に投影光学系13の瞳面10Aと共役である。

【0039】本例によっても、レチクル12上の所定の方向のライン・アンド・スペースパターンのウエハ14上の投影像のコントラストを改善することができる。更に、第1群のフライアイレンズ37A～37Dの他に第2群のフライアイレンズ34A～34Dが設けられているので、レチクル12上の照度の均一性が更に改善されている。なお、図5において、偏光板39A及び39Bはそれぞれ例えばリレー光学系の間の位置44A及び44Bに配置してもよく、更に他の位置に配置してもよい。また、光源20からの照明光が既に直線偏光であるような場合には、偏光板39A及び39Bの代わりに1/2波長板を使用してもよい。

【0040】次に、本発明の第3実施例につき図6及び図7を参照して説明する。本実施例は、先に説明した図3に示す第1実施例の空間フィルター24を変えて、図6(a)に示す如き輪帯状の開口240aを有する空間フィルター240をフライアイレンズ23の射出側に設けた例を示すものである。この空間フィルター240の配置により、フライアイレンズ23の射出側には、図6(a)に示す如く、光軸AXから偏心した輪帯状の2次光源45が形成され、この輪帯状の2次光源45からの光が、図3に示す如く、コンデンサーレンズ26、レチクル12を介して投影光学系13の瞳面10A（入射瞳面）に達する。ここで、説明を簡単にするために、レチクル12のライン・アンド・スペースパターンの回折作用による0次回折光と1次回折光との様子について考えると、この投影光学系13の瞳面10Aには、図6

(b)に示す如く、輪帯光源45と相似な輪帯状の0次回折光45Aと輪帯状の0次回折光45Aを横ずれさせた輪帯状の1次回折光45Bが形成される。

【0041】この場合、本例では図7(a)に示すように、等価光源部10の輪帯状の2次光源45から射出される照明光をそれぞれ光軸AXを中心とする円周の接線方向に偏光させる輪帯状の偏光板250が空間フィルタ

ー240上に設けられている。これにより、微細パターンに対して高コントラストの像を得ることができる。なお、図7(b)に示すように輪帯状光源を円弧状の各ゾーンに分ける開口を持つ空間フィルター240を用いて、各ゾーン上に偏光板250A~250Hを設けて、各ゾーンごとに光軸AXを軸とする円周の接線方向の直線偏光の照明光となるようにしてもよい。

【0042】なお、本発明は上述実施例に限定されず本発明の要旨を逸脱しない範囲で種々の構成を取り得ることは勿論である。

【0043】

【発明の効果】本発明の第1及び第2の照明光学装置によれば、物体に対して傾斜して入射する照明光が入射面に垂直な方向に偏光しているので、その物体上のパターンがその照明光の入射面に垂直な方向を長手方向とするライン・アンド・スペースパターンであるような場合に、投影光学系でその物体のパターンを投影したときにその像のコントラストを大幅に改善できる利点がある。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】(a)は本発明による照明光学装置の原理の説明に供する等価光源を示す図、(b)は図1(a)の等価光源を使用した投影露光装置を示す概略構成図である。

【図2】本発明の原理の説明に供する図である。

【図3】本発明の第1実施例の投影露光装置の照明光学系を示す構成図である。

【図4】(a)は図3の空間フィルター24及び偏光板25A~25Dを示す正面図、(b)は図4(a)のA

A線に沿う断面図である。

【図5】本発明の第2実施例の投影露光装置を示す構成図である。

【図6】(a)は本発明の第3実施例の等価光源及び空間フィルター240を示す図、(b)は空間フィルター240を用いた事による投影光学系13の瞳での回折光の様子を示す図である。

【図7】(a)は第3実施例の等価光源からの照明光の偏光状態を示す図、(b)は第3実施例の変形例の等価光源を示す図である。

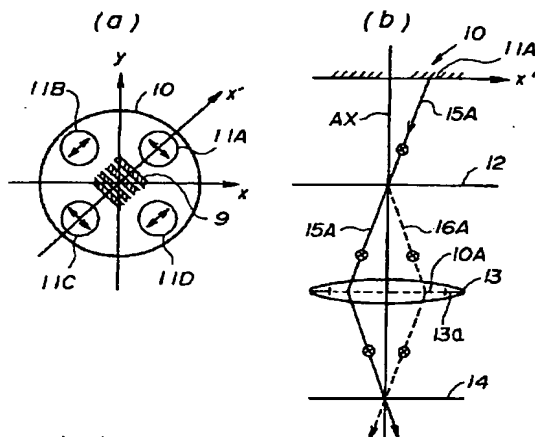
【図8】(a)は複数傾斜照明の等価光源を示す図、(b)は図8(a)の等価光源を用いた場合の投影光学系13の瞳での回折光の様子を示す図である。

【図9】複数傾斜照明で特定のパターンを照明した場合を示す図である。

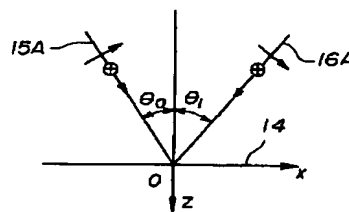
【符号の説明】

- 10 等価光源
- 11 A~11 D 小光源
- 12 レチクル
- 13 投影光学系
- 14 ウエハ
- 20 光源
- 22 コリメータレンズ
- 23 フライアイレンズ
- 24 空間フィルター
- 24 a~24 d 開口
- 25 A~25 D 偏光板
- 26 コンデンサーレンズ系

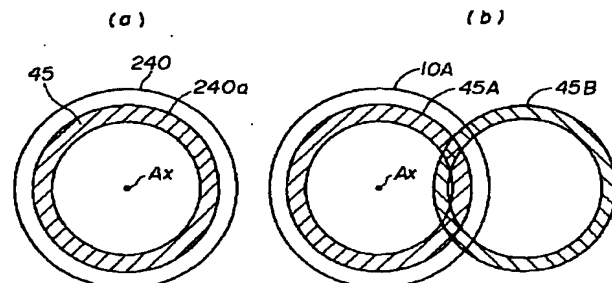
【図1】



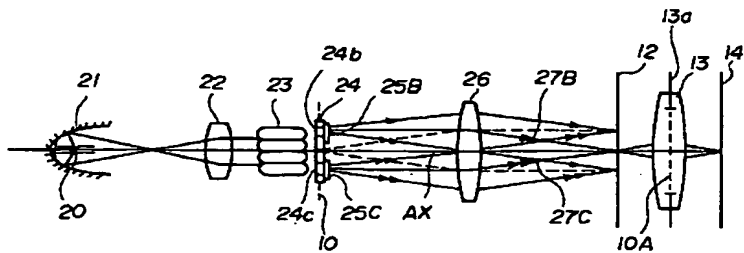
【図2】



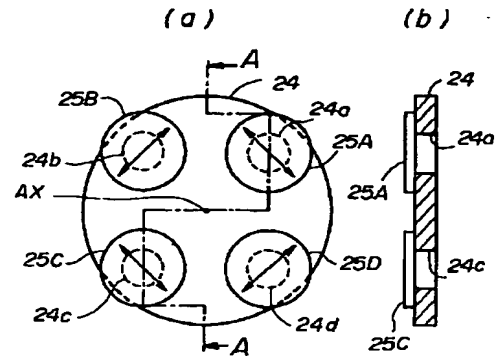
【図6】



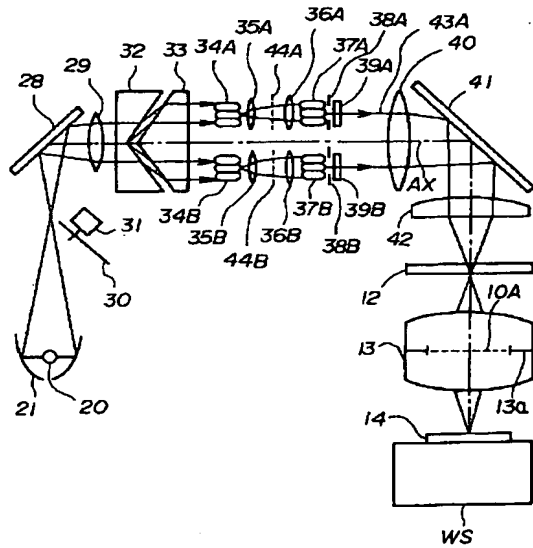
【図3】



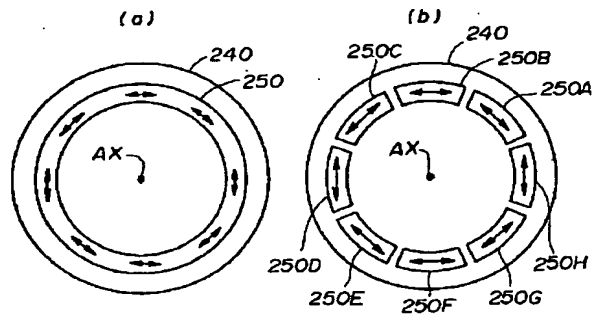
【図4】



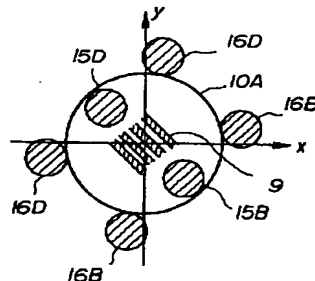
【図5】



【図7】



【図9】



【図8】

